

Citizens' group releases report on local cable

by Scott Griffin
Battalion Staff

The Cable Improvement Association has released a report in which they complain of local cable service and outline possible methods of improvement.

CIA spokesman George Edwards said the group is a collection of "citizens who are interested in improving cable television locally."

Edwards said the group has four general goals:

- To improve programming. Edwards said that both cable companies in Bryan have taken three superstations off the air, and that many citizens would like to see a return of those stations or a reduction in their rates. He said that even though the superstations were taken off the air, no rate reductions have been proposed.

- To improve signal quality. Edwards said the group wants a clear and uninterrupted signal.

- To establish a mechanism for citizen input. Edwards said citizens can now only complain to cable companies when there's a problem. He said the companies are not responsive to the public, and he favors either forming a commission that would hold hearings on cable disputes or letting the City Council hold hearings to allow the public to respond.

- To hire consultants to study the problems of local cable service. Edwards said the city should hire consultants to review the current situation. He said the money to hire the advisers could come from the 2 per-

cent franchise tax levied on customers.

Citing additional problem areas, Edwards said, "The franchise ordinances (city laws regarding cable services) need to be re-written. They're vague and outdated."

"One ordinance says the companies must provide first-class service with maximum efficiency, but nowhere are the terms defined."

"Many people are not receiving first-class service, and some are not getting any service," he said.

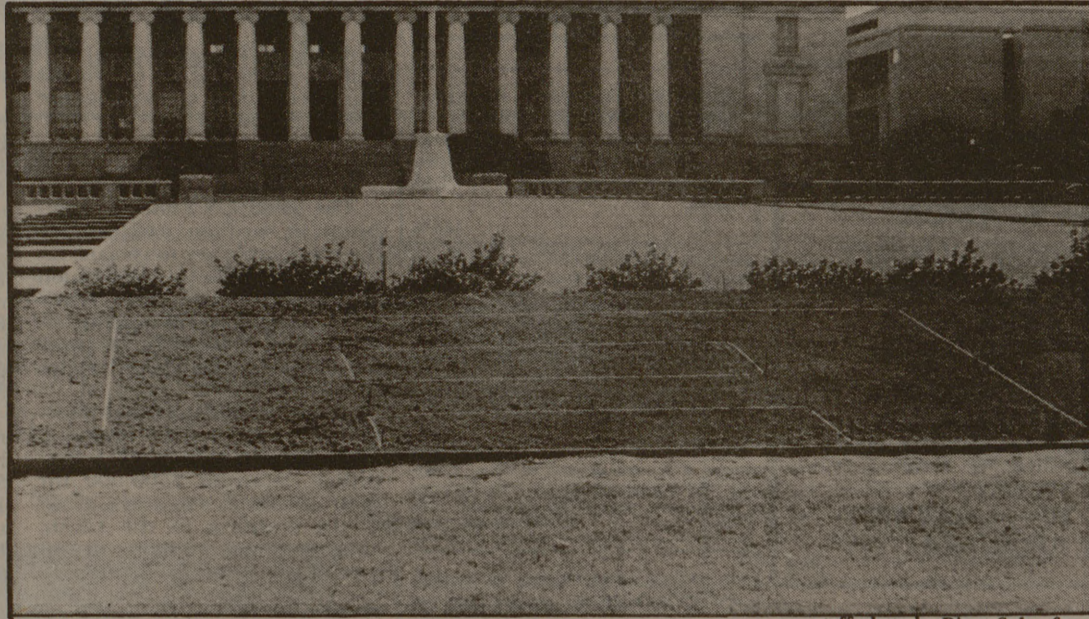
Edwards said that due to the ambiguities, subscribers are vulnerable to further program cuts without rate reductions. He added that the group would like to see published financial reports of the cable companies.

"There is no information available about the earnings of the companies," Edwards said. "There's only one line of information available to the public, and that only lists their total yearly revenues."

"The city has the power to approve rates, but the city council cannot exercise their power with the information provided now," he said.

Edwards also said that the range of programs being offered to Bryan residents is considerably smaller than in other cities.

At the Bryan city council meeting Monday night, Edwards noted a petition included in the report which was signed by over 1,000 residents who called for improvement in local cable service.



staff photo by Diana Sultenfuss

Replanting the garden

The garden in front of the System Building is replanted twice a year between the spring and summer semesters and again in October or November. The center bed will be

done in two colors with a colorful non-flowering plant. The side beds will be planted with Copper plants, plants with a dark copper-colored foliage.

College desegregation plan approval expected by Friday

by Scott Griffin
Battalion Staff

Federal approval or rejection of Gov. Mark White's proposed college desegregation plan is expected by the end of this week, says John Fainter, secretary of state.

"I'm hopeful that it will be approved. They've been negotiating the plan for over two years," he said.

The final copy of the plan was sent to the Department of Education on May 9 after U.S. District Judge John Pratt threatened to order the depart-

ment to begin cutting off federal aid.

Some civil rights groups have been saying the plan is incomplete and outdated.

For Texas A&M, the five-year plan calls for a doubling of black enrollment and for a 67 percent increase in the admission of Hispanics.

As of 1980, the state reported, Texas A&M had 33,370 white students and only 256 blacks.

While the program might pose a major problem for the University, Fainter said, "I have tremendous confidence in Texas A&M to do what is neces-

sary to enroll more minority students. There's no doubt that Texas A&M will be able to adopt the plan."

The state's goal for the next five years is to enroll an additional 2,432 blacks and 3,190 Hispanics statewide, which represents an 11.5 percent increase from the number enrolled in 1978.

While 12 percent of the state population is black and 21 percent is Hispanic, enrollment in undergraduate institutions was only 9.5 percent black and 12.3 percent Hispanic.

Regents OK industry park

By Angel Stokes
Battalion Staff

A proposed amendment, by Texas A&M Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen, to the System's Objectives, Rules and Regulations dealing with the consumption of alcoholic beverages was withdrawn from discussion at the Tuesday meeting of the Texas A&M System Board of Regents, but other agenda items were discussed.

The amendment would have allowed the presidents of each part of the University System to establish regulations concerning consumption of alcoholic beverages on property under their jurisdiction.

Tuesday, regents appropriated \$110,000 for development of a master plan for the 318-acre industrial research park to be built on the Texas A&M Campus.

The board also approved a detailed design for a new Administration Building, a preliminary design for a Central Receiving Warehouse and a new 190-room dormitory to be built at

Tarleton State University.

Preparation of a master plan for Prairie View A&M University and a \$845,000 contract for landscaping at Prairie View also were approved.

Robert G. Cherry, currently the vice chancellor for public affairs, was named executive secretary to the board of regents, effective June 1.

In other business, the regents:

- Authorized an increase in student services fees for Texas A&M to begin in the fall semester, 1983. The fee would be \$4.30 per semester credit hour or a maximum of \$51.50 per semester.

- Confirmed the appointment of Dr. William H. Mobley as dean of the College of Business Administration at Texas A&M. Mobley has been serving as interim dean.

- Approved a report recommending no relocation of Eastwood Airport but to make efforts to improve existing facilities.

Reagan gives A&M prof science medal

President Ronald Reagan presented a Texas A&M scientist with the National Medal of Science in a ceremony at the White House Tuesday.

Dr. F. Albert Cotton, Welch Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and the second most-published scientist in the world, is the first Texas A&M researcher to receive a National Medal

of Science while a faculty member.

The medal honors Cotton for a lifetime of work in inorganic chemistry. Cotton was one of 12 researchers to receive the award Tuesday.

The Department of Chemistry will host a reception honoring Cotton from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday in Room 224 of the Memorial Student Center.

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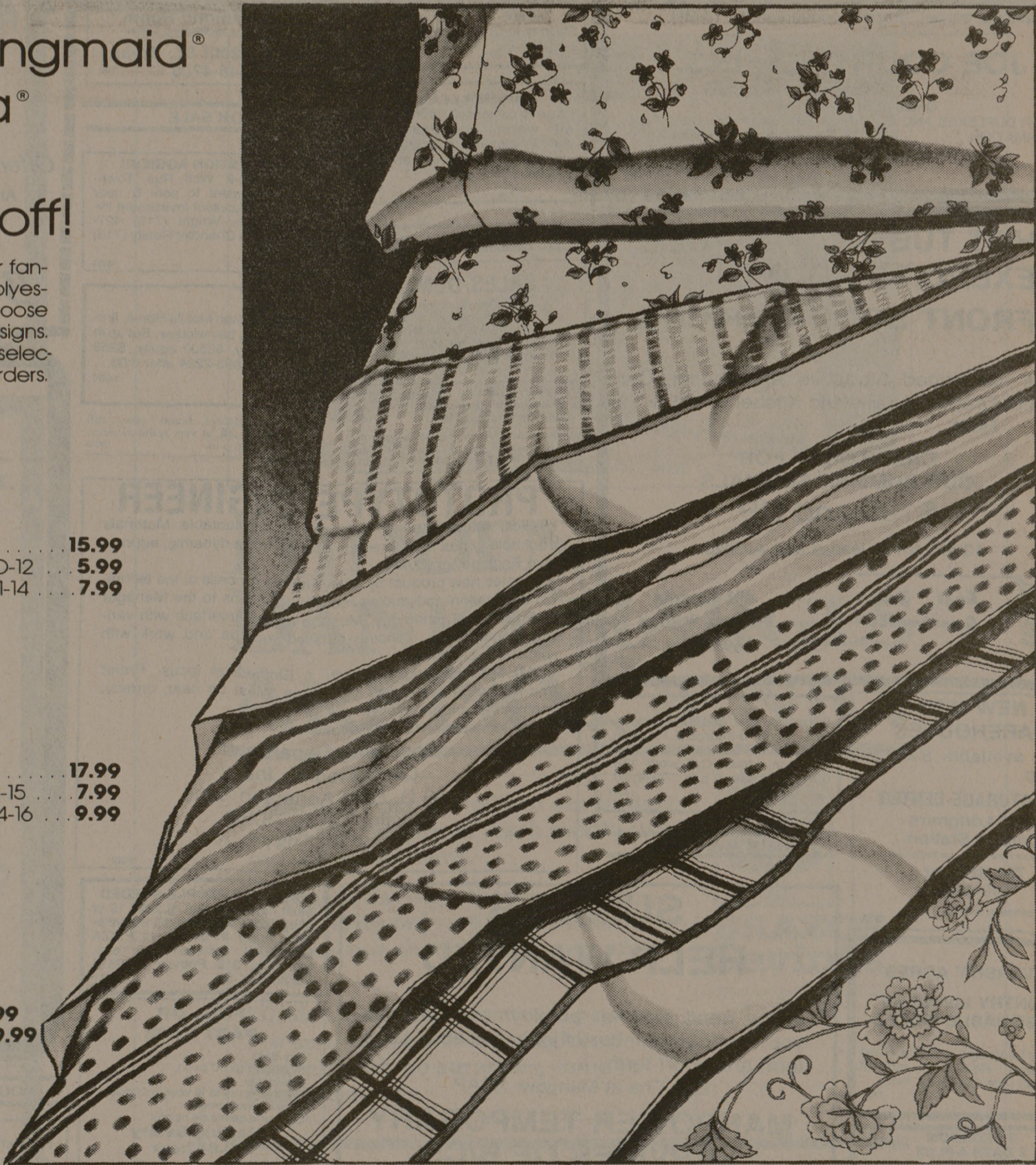
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